

# National Academies' Review of the NIOSH Construction Research Program

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WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH



# Presentation Objectives

- Background
- NIOSH goals for this review
- Overview of NIOSH and its research programs
- Questions and Discussion

# Background

- Development of Framework for Evaluation
- Use of Framework to Evaluate Research Programs
  - ◆ FY 2006
    - Mining Research and Hearing Loss Research
  - ◆ FY 2007
    - Respiratory Diseases, Agriculture, Traumatic Injuries, Personal Protective Technology, Construction

# NIOSH Goals for this Review

Conduct a series of studies to review NIOSH **research activities** with respect to:

- Impact of completed research in the workplace
- Relevance of research conducted
- Significant emerging issues

# Why has NIOSH undertaken this review?

- Our work is important
- We spend tax-payers money
- We are proud of what we do, but realize we should always strive to do it better

# Quantitative Results

“The committee will rate the performance of each program activity on a scale of 1 – 5 for the impact of the program in the workplace and for the success of the program in achieving its goals. For cases where the impact is difficult to measure, the committee may evaluate performance by using existing intermediate outcomes to estimate impact.”

# Overview of NIOSH

# Every Day in the USA



- 9,000 workers are treated in an emergency department for work-related injury or illness; 200 are hospitalized
- 5986 workers sustain lost-time injuries or illnesses
- 664 workers develop work-related diseases
- 134 workers die from work-related diseases
- 16 workers die from injuries at work

**Employer's workers' compensation costs totaled  
\$87.1 billion in 2004.**



# OSH Act of 1970

- PL 91-596 (1970) created OSHA and NIOSH
- To assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women



# Occupational Safety and Health

## Regulation/Enforcement

Department of Labor  
(DOL)

Mine Safety  
and Health  
Administration  
(MSHA)

Occupational  
Safety and Health  
Administration  
(OSHA)

## Research and Prevention Recommendations

Department of  
Health and Human Services  
(HHS)

Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
(CDC)

National Institute for  
Occupational Safety  
and Health (NIOSH)

# National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

- The sole federal government organization charged with conducting occupational safety and health research

# NIOSH Vision

Delivering on the nation's promise –  
safety and health at work for all people  
through research and prevention



# NIOSH Values

- Relevance
- Diversity
- Quality
- Partnership
- Access
- Performance
- Accountability

# NIOSH Research Agenda

- Before 1996:
  - ◆ National symposia on the leading causes of occupationally-related illness and injury
  - ◆ Ten strategies
- After 1996:
  - ◆ National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)



## ***NORA Vision***

A national partnership effort to define and conduct priority research





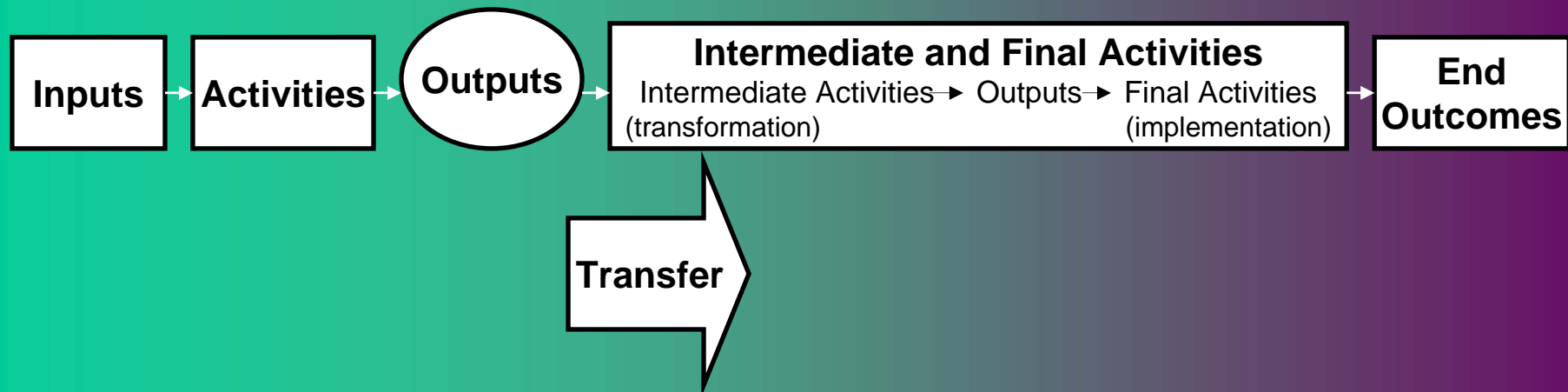
## ***Second Decade of NORA***

Move research  
to practice in  
workplaces  
through sector-  
based  
partnerships

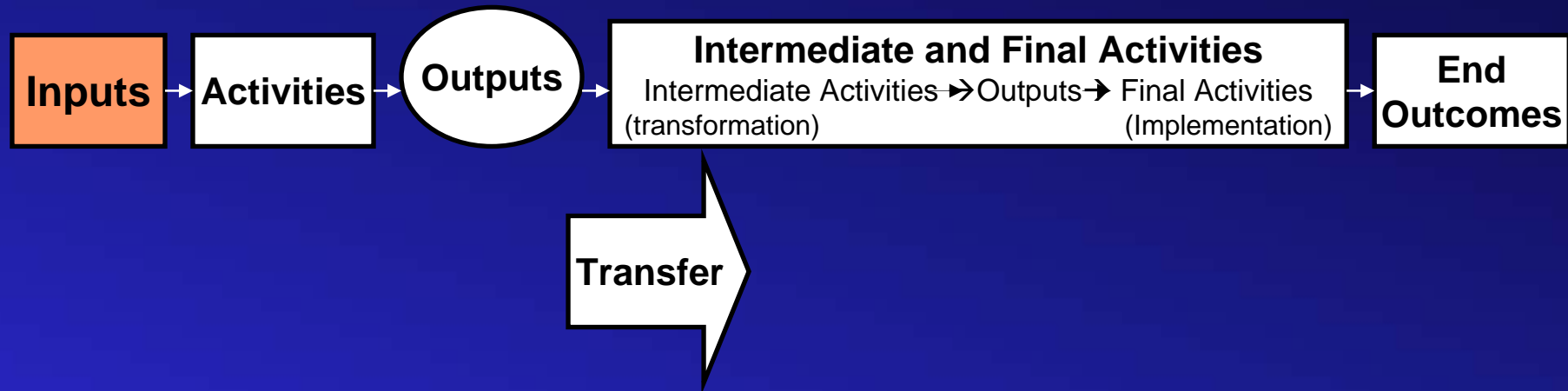


# Overview of NIOSH Research Programs

# NIOSH Operational Logic Model

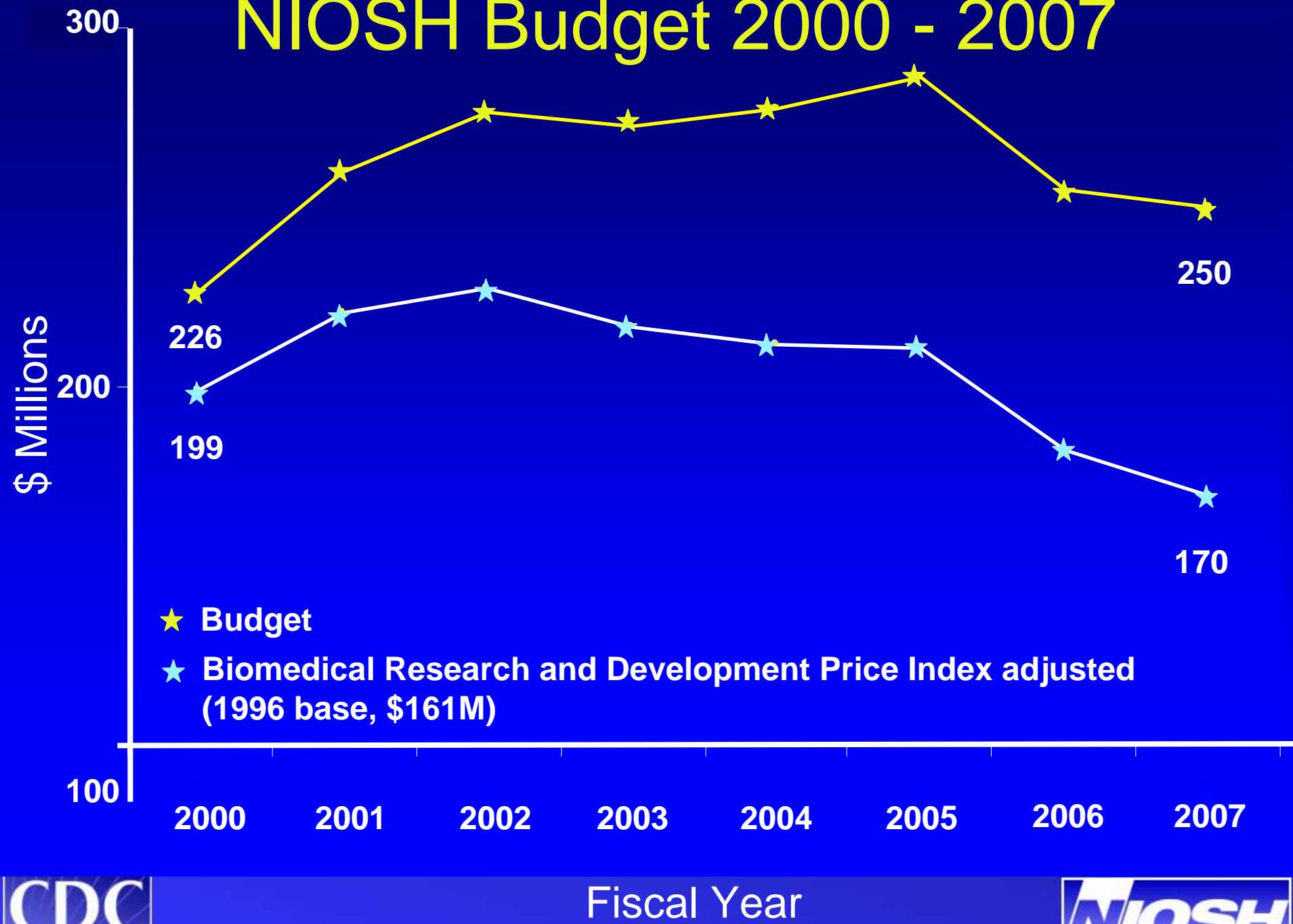


# NIOSH Inputs



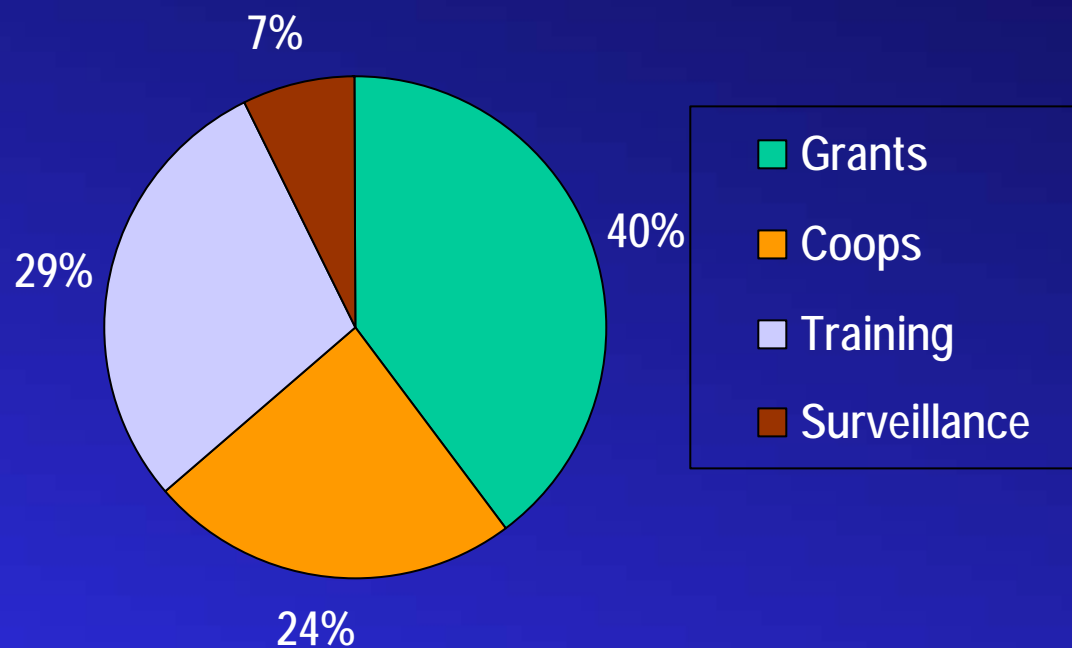
**Budget History**  
**Staffing**  
**Planning**  
**Logic Model**

# NIOSH Budget 2000 - 2007

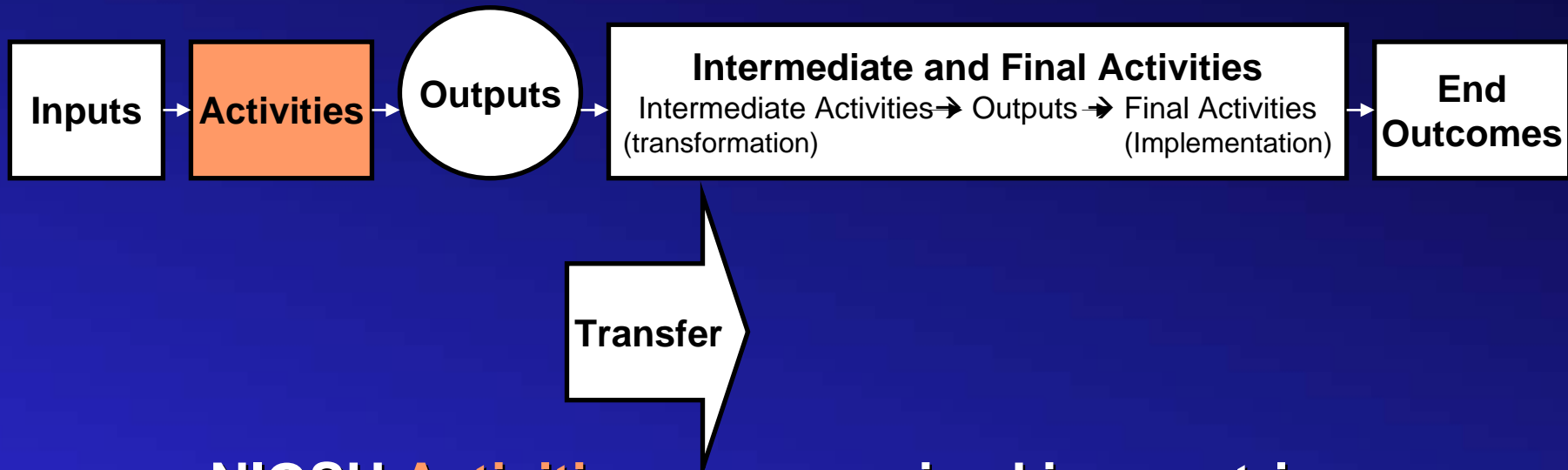


# Extramural Programs

Total: ~\$100M



# NIOSH Activities



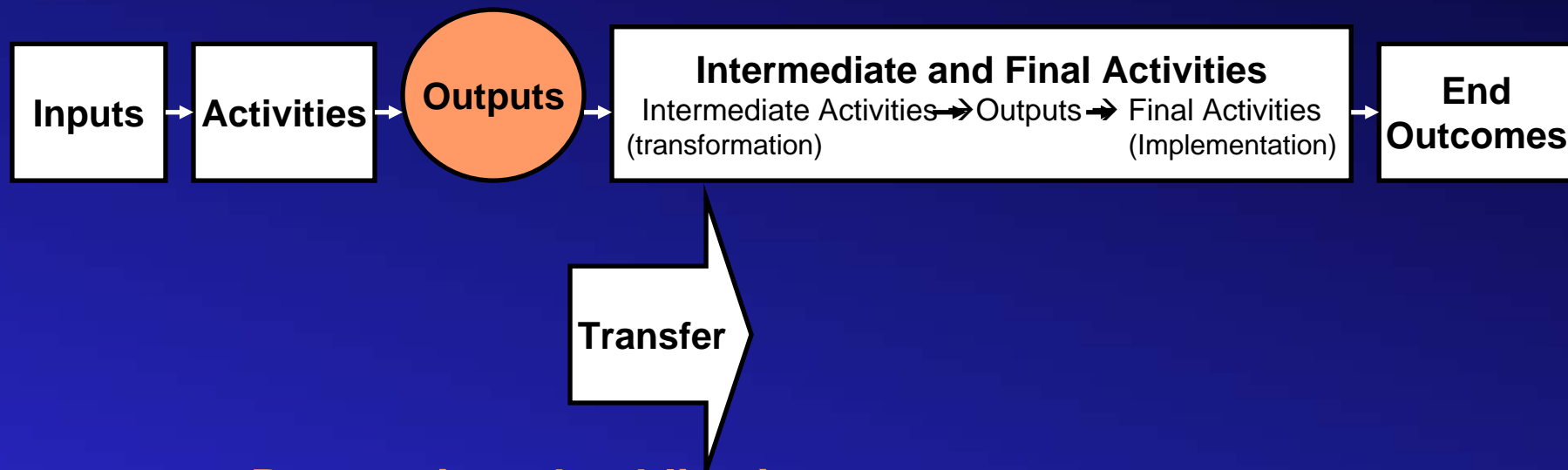
NIOSH **Activities** are organized in a matrix:

**Sector Programs**

**Cross-sector Programs**

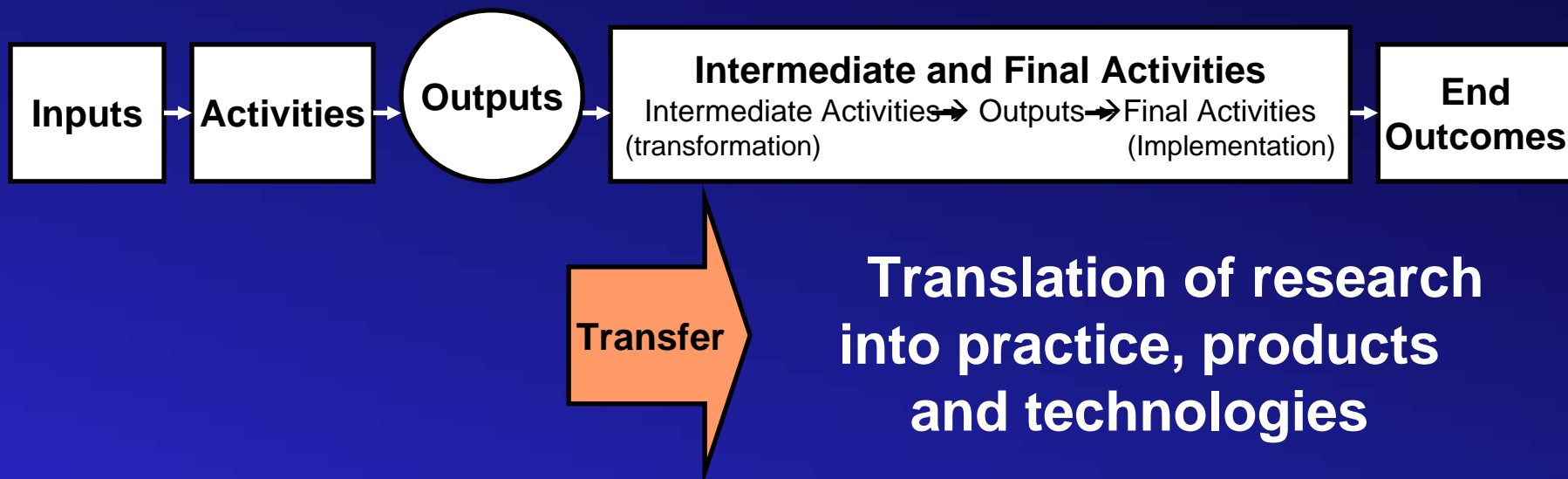
**Tools and Emphasis Areas**

# NIOSH Outputs



- **Peer-reviewed publications**
- **NIOSH publications**
- **Communications to regulatory agencies or Congress**
- **Research methods**
- **Control technologies; patents**
- **Training and information products**

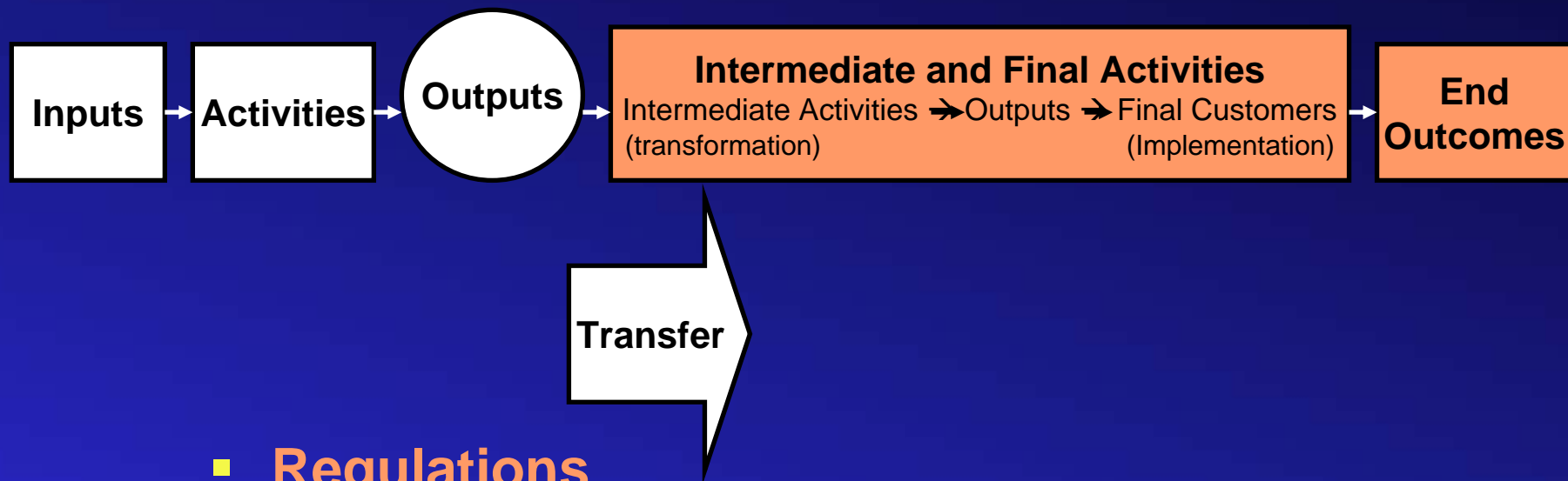
# NIOSH Transfer Methods



- **Information dissemination**
  - ◆ Web site
  - ◆ Technical information inquiry services
- **Capacity building**
  - ◆ Technical assistance
  - ◆ Training and education



# NIOSH Intermediate Outcomes



- **Regulations**
- **Guidance**
- **Standards**
- **Training and education programs**
- **Pilot technologies**

The end outcome we all seek is improved  
workplace  
health and safety

# NIOSH Thoughts on NA Review Process

- Programs, not projects
- Importance of quantitative as well as qualitative assessment
- Bottom line effectiveness, not just a review of processes

# NIOSH Thoughts on the Framework

- Comfortable with the Framework
- No Framework can cover the breadth of NIOSH programs; you will face some challenges
- We understand that arriving at a simple number rating is a difficult task, we also understand that some will place great importance in that number, we appreciate your efforts
- Keep in mind that NIOSH's ultimate goal is to do "better" work, therefore your advice is welcome

